Permission to Tobacco Board to increase their staff strength

*320 SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to shortage of staff the Tobacco Board is unable to set up additional tobacco auction platforms in Andhra Pradesh despite increased tobacco crop size in the State:

(b) if so, whether Government will consider allowing Tabacco Board Increase their staff strength and set up more tabacco auction platforms with increased tabacco handling capacity; and

(c) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (c) The existing auction platforms are sufficient to market the authorised crop of tabacco. Proposals for setting up of additional auction platforms received from the Tabacco Board are considered and the Tabacco Board is allowed to set up additional auction platforms as and when found necessary. Normally, the additional platforms are operated by redeployment of existing staff of the Tobacco Board.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Extension of subsidy on capital loans to coffee growers

2267. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has extended five and three per cent interest subsidy to small and medium coffee growers respectively on working capital loans through the Coffee-Boards;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government would also like to extend the subsidy;

(d) if so, the time-frame set for this purpose;

(e) whether Government had also waived the old development loans and interest amounting to Rs. 64.50 crore availed by small coffee growers from the Coffee Board;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and